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ABSTRACT

Results of an analysis of associate degree trends on three levels--college, state, and national--which may merit further study and use in program planning are presented. These results, in tabular format, show: (1) an increase in degrees and awards below the baccalaureate level; (2) a decrease in the proportion of degrees awarded for programs in the Liberal Arts and Arts and Sciences; (3) a similarity on college, state, and national levels in the proportion of degrees and awards for business-related and health-related programs; (4) an increase in the proportion of degrees and awards in public service technologies; and (5) a stable number of degrees granted in mechanical and engineering-related programs. Also supplied are the sources of data used in the analysis, an explanation of the analysis, and a comparison by the National Center for Education Statistics of the national degree data with the Department of Labor's demand/supply information from the "Occupational Outlook Handbook." (LS)

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AN ANALYSIS OF ASSOCIATE DEGREE TRENDS AT CUMBERLAND COUNTY COLLEGE, NEW JERSEY COUNTY COLLEGES AND U.S. TWO-YEAR POSTSECONDARY INSTITUTIONS

Information Sheet 78-01

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INFORMATION SHEET 78-01

An Analysis of Associate Degree Trends at Cumberland County College, New Jersey County Colleges and U.S. Two-Year Postsecondary Institutions

Sources of Data

The information shown in the following tables is taken from student record data compiled by the Student Affairs Office and from data provided by the college on state and federal surveys.

Graduation data from other New Jersey Community Colleges are given in Table 2; this information was previously published in DHE Research Report 77-1 and is based on college responses to state reports.

The publication, Associate Degrees and Other Formal Awards Below the Baccalaureate Analysis of Six-Year Trends, contains information given in Table 3. Data are based on institutional reports provided to the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES).

Using the Data

Although it isn't possible to make definite assumptions from this information, it may be useful to point out possible trends that would merit further study or use in program planning. The data may also provide some interesting comparison information among college, state and national trends.

Analysis and Explanation

Both state and federal data gathering agencies group the degree data by broad categories such as: Arts and Sciences, Business and Commerce Technologies, Mechanical and Engineering Technologies, Public Service Technologies, and Health Services/Paramedical Technologies. These broad categories make comparison from the college to state to national levels somewhat difficult; however, the comparison data shown in Tables 1,2 and 3 can be used to compare general trends in the distribution of associate degrees and other formal awards below the baccalaureate level during the 1970's.

The following points can be considered:

- Degrees and awards below the baccalaureate level increased by 43% at Cumberland County College, by 47% in all New Jersey county colleges, and by 35% in all U.S. two-year postsecondary institutions between 1972 and 1976.

- The proportion of degrees awarded for programs in the Liberal Arts or Arts and Sciences (transfer programs) appears to be moving from close to half of all two-year degrees to about one-third. This trend is much the same at the college, state, and national levels.

- The proportion of degrees and awards both for business-related and for health-related programs is notably similar at the college, state, and national levels.

- The proportion of degrees and awards in public service technologies appears to be increasing not only at CCC but also in the state and nationally.

- Degrees granted in mechanical and engineering-related technologies appear to be remaining fairly stable, although awards for these programs are proportionately higher nationally than in New Jersey or at CCC.

Graduate Data and Manpower Supply Data - National Information

The National Center for Education Statistics has compared their national degree data with the Department of Labor's demand/supply information from the Occupational Outlook Handbook. The following table compares the increase in supply (degrees granted) between 1971 and 1976 with demand information for 1974-1985:

Program	Percentage Increase in Supply 1971-76	Job Outlook 1974-85
Computer Programming	29.6%	Favorable
Nursing, R.N.	137.3%	Good, but competition developing
Mechanical/Engineering	49.7%	Favorable
Accounting Technology	94.2%	Good
Secretarial Technology	61.6%	Very good
Police, Law Enforcement, Corrections	239.8%	Good
Education Technologies	74.3%	Keen Competition

Key to Job Outlook Codes:

Very good	=	demand greater than supply
Good or Favorable	=	rough balance between supply and demand
Keen Competition	=	supply greater than demand

FIGURE 1

Trends in Associate Degrees
Cumberland County College

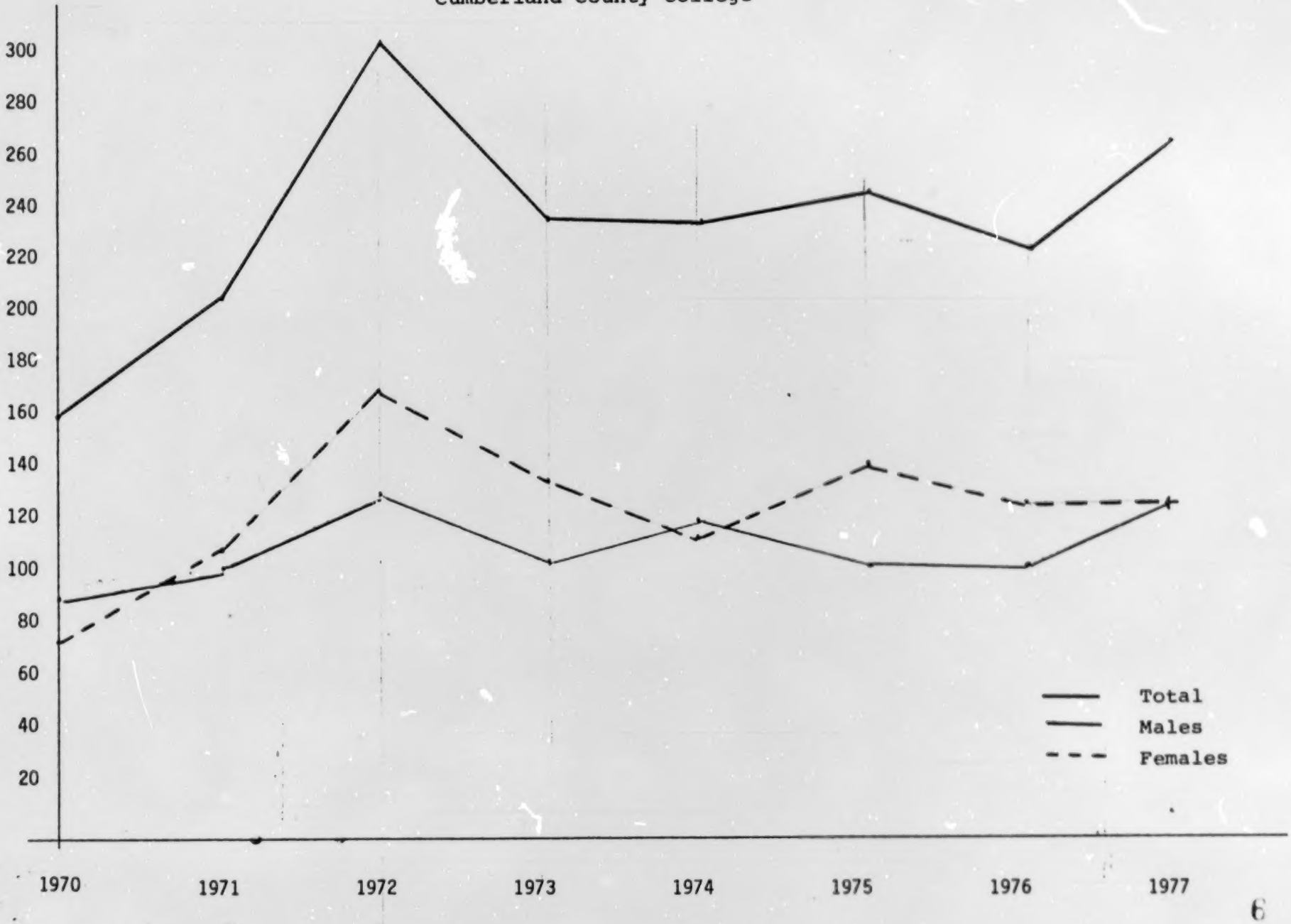

TABLE 1

Number and Percent Distribution of Degrees
by Program Area and Year at
Cumberland County College

Program Area / Year	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977
Arts and Sciences	104 65.4%	104 51.2%	129 44.0%	90 38.6%	97 41.6%	93 37.8%	95 41.8%	97 36.0%
Business and Commerce Technologies	23 14.4	23 11.3	23 7.8	27 11.6	29 12.4	41 16.7	24 10.6	46 17.1
Data Processing Technologies				1 0.4	2 0.8	1 0.4		
Mechanical/Engineering Technologies	7 4.4	10 4.9	10 3.4	9 3.9	11 4.7	6 2.4	14 6.2	13 4.8
Health Services Technologies	24 15.0	25 12.3	38 13.0	44 18.9	35 15.0	44 17.9	32 14.1	29 10.8
Natural Science Technologies			6 2.0	4 1.7	5 2.1	3 1.2	5 2.2	13 4.8
Public Service Technologies	1 0.6	41 20.2	87 29.7	58 24.9	54 23.2	58 23.6	57 25.1	71 26.4
Totals	159	203	293	233	233	246	227	269

TABLE 2
NUMBER AND PERCENT DISTRIBUTION OF
ASSOCIATE DEGREES BY PROGRAM AREA AND YEAR,
NEW JERSEY COUNTY COLLEGES

Program Area / Year	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977
Arts, Sciences			3,491 57.4%	3,622 55.2%	3,737 50.4%	3,982 49.4%	3,915 43.9%	
Business & Commerce			855 14.1	910 13.9	1,199 16.2	1,214 15.1	1,528 17.1	
Data Processing			255 4.2	193 2.9	214 2.9	206 2.5	211 2.4	
Mechanical/Engineering Tech.			420 6.9	366 5.6	463 6.2	472 5.9	575 6.4	
Health Services			772 12.7	961 14.6	1,142 15.4	1,467 18.2	1,635 18.3	
Natural Science			23 0.4	52 0.8	53 0.7	69 0.9	76 0.9	
Public Service			262 4.3	454 6.9	610 8.2	643 8.0	975 10.9	
Total			6,078	6,558	7,418	8,053	8,915	

TABLE 3

Number and Percentage Distribution of
Associate Degrees and Other Formal Awards
Below the Baccalaureate by Program Area and Year,
All U.S. Postsecondary Institutions with Two-Year Programs

Program Area / Year	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977
Arts and Sciences		148,769 54.5%	161,033 51.3%	163,656 48.5%	168,405 45.5%	170,173 43.8%	179,485 42.5%	
Business and Commerce Technologies		43,571 18.7	51,003 18.7	55,311 18.6	65,326 19.5	68,036 19.3	79,179 20.4	
Data Processing Technologies		7,564 2.8	7,841 2.5	7,640 2.3	6,998 1.9	6,821 1.7	7,176 1.7	
Mechanical/Engineering Technologies		30,172 11.1	34,546 11.0	34,781 10.3	37,631 10.2	40,775 10.5	45,167 10.7	
Health Services Technologies		24,370 8.9	32,288 10.3	42,910 12.7	51,207 13.8	57,943 14.9	61,918 14.6	
Natural Science Technologies		6,107 2.2	8,394 2.7	9,292 2.7	11,496 3.1	12,966 3.3	13,316 3.1	
Public Service Technologies		12,309 4.5	18,652 5.9	24,167 7.2	28,880 7.8	31,408 8.1	36,343 8.6	
Total		272,862	313,757	337,757	369,943	388,122	422,586	